

**FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of January 15, 2009**

The January meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. The meeting began at approximately 7:08 p.m.

Present: Commissioners: Brian Baker, Bob Carter, Ken Kroko, Barbara Miller-Richards, George Solley, Susan Tyler, Bob Antozzi and Patricia Sparks.
Absent: Commissioner: Charles McDaniel.

- I. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of October 16, 2008 were unanimously approved.
- II. Public Comment:** James Lawrence announced that he would be attending Recreation Commission Meetings.
- III. Communications from the Director:** The Commissioners reviewed the following reports:
 - A. Financial Report December 2008:** Dr. Antozzi reviewed the financial report and the forthcoming budget for Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities.
 - B. Sports Notes October 2008-January 2009**
 - C. Leisure Report October 2008-January 2009**
The Commissioners received the 2009 First Night expense and revenue report.
 - D. Old Mill Park Report December 2008**
 - E. Follow up Report – October 2008**
 - F. Letter from Lynn C. Brownley Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors –** Commissioner Baker received a letter from Lynn C. Brownley stating that she is concerned about the trees that were removed from Hurkamp Park. He felt the trees were irresponsibly removed in order to host a political event. Commissioner Baker stated that there is a misunderstanding by the public on why the trees were removed. A process was followed by the Parks and Recreation staff and an arborist to determine the health of the trees. It was recommended by the Parks and Recreation staff and an arborist that for safety of our citizens the trees should be removed. It was recommended that Commissioner Baker respond to the letter explaining the background on why the trees were removed. Commissioner Solley will also respond to the letter.
- IV. Noteworthy Dates:** The Commissioners reviewed upcoming Parks and Recreation programs.

Old Business:

- A. Pathways** – The engineer, Gordon and Associates, is working on the engineering for the VCR Trail. They have finished the trailhead schematics. Doug Fawcett will be sending a copy of the design plan to Dr. Antozzi to be reviewed by the Pathways Committee. Approximately, fifteen engineers attended the pre-proposal conference for engineering services for the Heritage Trail.
- B. Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Partnership** – Commissioner Baker reported that he is now receiving an update from the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation. Patricia Wolfrey informed Commissioner Baker that they had received a \$3 million dollar grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in support of the Badges for Baseball program. On February 8, 2009, at the Aspire Gala, the Cal Ripken, Sr. award will be presented to Hall of Fame Coach Lou Holtz. The Aspire Business Award will be presented to the co-founder of Maryland Bank North America Corporation, and the sports award will be presented to the Philadelphia Phillies. The Aspire Gala raised 1.5 million in 2008.
- C. Riverfront Park** – Commissioner Solley reported that the City has purchased the Wings on the Water property. At this time, the City plans to make the area usable for events. Dr. Antozzi reported that Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities has evaluated the property, the building and the decking. There is a lot of rock and gravel that will need to be removed. Parks and Recreation will coordinate with Public Works in removing the gravel and the planting of grass. Dr. Antozzi reported that with a modest budget of approximately \$2,500, the appearance of the property could be changed to accommodate City events such as Finally Fridays. Commissioner Solley recommended that City staff and the Task Force meet to review some of the possibilities for the building and the decking. The decking is in excellent condition. Dr. Antozzi reported that in the future, the City might be able to rent out the property and make a little money. Commissioner Solley explained to the Commissioners the correct figures on the appraisal of the property compared to the actual purchase price. In the first appraisal of the property by Chris Kayla, the land was not appraised as commercial/ riverfront property. However, the second appraisal of the property was appraised as commercial/waterfront property. It was determined at that time that the appraisal was accurate and the asking price was fair.

D. Commission Vacancies – No information available at this time.

E. City Property Initiative Report – Dr. Antozzi reported that the Committee has acquired some maps and visuals for a potential golf course. A request has been made to the National Youth Golf Foundation for free consultation services to determine if the property is feasible for usage as a golf course. The Committee is discussing ways of identifying city park resources that the public can take advantage of including the pathways.

F. Volunteer Banquet Report - Commissioner Miller-Richards made several comments on the 2008 Annual Volunteer Banquet. Several of the sponsors were omitted. We need to make sure that all sponsors are recognized. Commissioner Miller-Richards asked if a table(s) could be reserved for some of the larger sponsors.

V. New Business:

A. Memorial Recreation Park – Dr. Antozzi reported that four porta potties have been burned in the last three years at Memorial Park. The vendor has requested that the porta potties be moved to a more visible area in the park. The porta potties have been moved closer to Mary Ball Street; however, Dr. Antozzi reported that the porta potties will now be moved toward Kenmore Avenue.

B. Commission Meetings: Commissioner Baker asked the Commissioners for their opinion on meeting every month. It is relevant that we maintain our monthly schedule and determine the amount of business that needs to be conducted at each meeting. Commissioner Kroko stated that he would prefer to meet every month even if it is a short meeting. Commissioner Carter suggested that we meet on the even months, however, keep the uneven months scheduled in case of important business. Commissioner Tyler agreed meeting every other month. Commissioner Miller-Richards agreed with Commissioner Kroko. Commissioner Solley stated that if we determine that there is not enough business that needs to be addressed then he did not see why we could not cancel the meeting. In response to the discussion, Commissioner Baker suggested reducing the volume of reports and having a brief meeting to discuss certain items. The Commissioners agreed with Commissioner Baker.

VI. Commission Concerns and Topics:

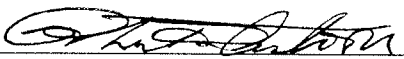
Commissioner Carter asked if staff had taken down the windscreens. Due to high winds, some of the windscreens came down. Commissioner Carter asked if there was something that could be done to reduce the pressure on the windscreens. Staff did a great job picking up the leaves on the tennis courts. Is it possible to have the leaves that collect in front of the wall at Hurkamp get picked up?

Commissioner Tyler stated she was sorry she could not attend the Banquet. She was glad to be back. She also thanked the Commissioners for their support during her recovery.

Commissioner Kroko inquired as to the status of the Lunchtime in Hurkamp sponsorships. Dr. Antozzi reported we now have all the sponsors for our concert series.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Approved by the Recreation Commission



Robert Antozzi

02/19/09
Date

Next Commission Meeting Thursday, February 19, 2009.